

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows.

Please amend the paragraph at page 89, lines 12 through 25, as follows:

Notable aspects of the rules table format for SOC 10 are fields of action bits which enable priority or precedence to be changed from TOS-to-COS, and vice versa. Referring to the rules table illustrated in Figure 23, and the filter mask format, bits 8 and 9 of the action bits field enable this conversion. If bit 8 is set, then the 802.1p priority field is picked up from the TOS precedence field in the IP header. If bit 9 is set, then the value of the TOS precedence field is picked up from the 802.1p priority field. This provides the significant advantage of providing valuable information which can be read by both routers and switches.

Switches operating at layer 2 will look at the 802.1p priority field ~~(inventors—please confirm)~~, while routers, operating at layer 3, will look at the TOS precedence field. When a packet enters the switch domain from the router domain in a LAN, the precedence can be appropriately moved by SOC 10 from the 802.1p priority field to the TOS precedence field, and vice versa.